Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7631

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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CORRECTEDCOPYFOR ADDEES AND PARA 1 (A)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID UNDP TD

SUBJECT: CERP 0008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

PARIS FOR UNESCO, ROME FOR FODAG, VIENNA FOR UNIDO, $\,$

MONTREAL FOR ICAO.

REF: STATE 64907

SUMMARY: THIS EMBASSY IS GENERALLY PLEASED WITH SCOPE AND NATURE OF UNDP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN TRINIDAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND TOBAGO, AND WE BELIEVE THAT UNDP STAFF IS ADEQUATE

AND EFFECTIVE. UNDP RESREP AND HIS ASSISTANTS ALSO PERFORM A NEEDED OVERALL COORDINATION ROLE, MEETING FREQUENTLY WITH FOREIGN DONORS AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES. PROJECT REVIEW AND EVALUATION, AS CONDUCTED LOCALLY, IS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AND SHOULD ENSURE FULL DELIVERY OF ALL PROJECTS IN 1974-78 TIMEFRAME. UNDP HAS EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONS WITH GOTT, AND GOTT HAS MET ALL ITS COUNTERPART COMMITMENTS AND HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY FORTHCOMING IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO REGIONAL PROJECTS LOCATED IN TRINIDAD. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING IS KEYED TO TOPICS LISTED PARA 5 REFTEL:

(A) UNDP RESREP IS CLEARLY SEEN AS COORDINATOR OF ALL UN-SYSTEM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN HIS REGION (WHICH INCLUDES TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, BARBADOS, SURINAM AND THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES). AN ASSISTANT REGIONAL RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNDP PROGRAM IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. UNDP ACTIVITIES ARE WELL2COORDINATED WITH IBRD, AND ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IS LEFT ENTIRELY TO INTERNATIONAL LENDING AGENCIES. UNICEF, WITH A REGIONAL OFFICE IN BOGOTA, DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXERCISE FOR TRINIDAD, BECAUSE ONLY UNICEF ACTIVITY IN THIS COUNTRY IS PROVISION OF SMALL AMOUNT OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

(B) COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS CONDUCTED BY PRINCIPAL DONORS THEMSELVES, WITH UNDP OFFICE STRONGLY ENCOURAGING THIS EFFORT. CENTRAL COORDINATION POINT FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE WITHIN GOTT IS MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, BUT MANY GOTT INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES IGNORE THIS MINISTRY, AND PREFER TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH DONOR AGENCIES. UNDP RESREP AND HIS ASSISTANTS DO WORK CLOSELY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH THIS MINISTRY, HOWEVER, AND ALL UNDP PROJECTS ARE PREPARED IN CONJUNCTION WITH MINISTRY. GIVEN TRINIDAD'S POSITION AS AN OIL PRODUCER, FUTURE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS LIKELY TO BE MADE AVAILABLE ONLY ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS. THIS MAY CAUSE PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION AMONG EXTERNAL SOURCES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, DUE TO GOTT'S HABIT OF "SHOPPING AROUND" FOR TECHNICAL AID. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEVERTHE LESS, EXISTENCE OF UNDP OFFICE IN TRINIDAD AND ITS STRONG RECORD IN PRIOR COORDINATION INDICATES THAT IT PROBABLY SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THIS ROLE, EVEN AMONG SUPPLIERS OF REIMBURSABLE ASSISTANCE.

(C) UNDP RESREP DOES APPEAR TO REPRESENT EFFECTIVELY OTHER UN BODIES, AND UNDP OFFICES HERE ARE CENTRAL POINT OF CONTACT FOR ALL VISITORS FROM OTHER UN AGENCIES. ACTIVITIES OF UN

INFORMATION CENTER HERE ARE CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH RESREP, AND HE IS ALSO IDENTIFIED WITH FORTHCOMING ECLA BIENNIAL MEETING. EMBASSY HAS NO PARTICULAR INSIGHT INTO UN STRUCTURE WHICH MIGHT PERMIT US TO RECOMMEND CHANGES DESIGNED TO PERMIT RESREP TO PERFORM MORE NON-TECHNICAL-ASSISTANCE-RELATED ACTIVITIES. IN GENERAL, WE SUSPECT THAT RESREP PERFORMANCE IN THESE FIELDS WILL BE MORE A REFLECTION OF HIS PERSONALITY AND THE DEGREE OF INDEPENDENCE HISTORICALLY ENJOYED BY OTHER UN AGENCIES, REGARDLESS OF FORMAL ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

- (D) COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEW SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE MECHANISM TO EVALUATE PROJECT PERFORMANCE, AND ALL UNDP PROJECTS IN TRINIDAD APPEAR TO BE FULLY REALIZABLE WITHIN TIME FRAME OF PROJGRAM. (THIS TIME FRAME IS 1974-78 IN TRINIDAD'S CASE, SINCE COUNTRY PROGRAM WAS NOT PREPARED UNTIL LATER 1973, EVEN THOUGH WORLDWIDE UNDP FUNDING CYCLE IS 1972-76.)
- (E) AS EXPLAINED IN POS 732 (NOTAL), MARCH 29, 1974, THE EMBASSY DOES NOT RPT NOT FEEL IT FEASIBLE OR APPROPRIATE TO ATTEMPT TO REVIEW PROPOSED UNDP PROJECTS.
- (F) UNDP OFFICE FEELS, FOLLOWING COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEW, THAT THERE ARE NO "POOR" UNDP PROJECTS IN TRINIDAD, AND IS CONFIDENT THAT ALL WILL BE "DELIVERED" ON TIME. WEAKEST PROJECT, IN EMBASSY'S OPINION, IS ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AIMED AT UP-GRADING GOTT CIVIL SERVICE ORGANIZATION AND PRACTICES. THIS PROJECT WAS STRONGLY HAMPERED FOR OVER A YEAR BY LACK OF FULL-TIME PROJECT MANAGER (DUE TO GOTT REFUSAL TO ACCEPT UNDP NOMINEES FOR THIS POSITION), WITH RESULT THAT PROJECT HAS DEGENERATED INTO SERVICES OF SEVEN ONE-SHOT ADVISERS, MOST OF WHOM PREPARED REPORTS AND DEPARTED. NEVERTHELESS, TWO OF THESE ADVISERS -- ON RECORDS MANAGEMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND COMPUTER PRACTICES -- DID MAKE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS, AND THE GOTT HAS BEGUN TO IMPLEMENT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS. ONE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PROJECT HAS BEEN UNDP ASSISTANCE TO ESTABLISH CARIBBEAN INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CARIRI -- A UNIDO PROJECT). TWO PROMISING PROJECTS ARE THE TOOL AND

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R 181450Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7632
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
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DIE TRAING PROJECT (UNIDO) AND THE DENTAL NURSING SCHOOL (WHO), BOTH OF WHICH HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT DELAYED BY EXPERT RECRUITMENT PROBLEMS. THREE UNIDO EXPERTS ARE NOW WORKING ON THE TOOL AND DIE PROJECT, AND THE NECESSARY IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION HAS BEEN PASSED. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, IT HAS NOT YET BEEN POSSIBLE TO PLACE SIX YOUNG ENGINEERS IN TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS IN NORTH AMERICA DUE TO THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN, BUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR TRAINING ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED SOON. PERSONNEL ARE STILL BEING SOUGHT TO STAFF THE DENTAL NURSING SCHOOL, BUT ALL OTHER ARRANGEMENTS ARE NEARLY COMPLETED.

(G) THE TRIPARTITE REVIEW SYSTEM FOR PROJECT EVALUATION HAS BEEN EMPLOYED ON ALL MAJOR PROJECTS, AND IS FELT TO BE HIGHLY USEFUL. IN ONE CASE (THE CARIRI PROJECT), THE THOROUGHNESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE REVIEW LED TO IDENTIFICATION OF ANOTHER AREA TO WHICH PRIORITY RESEARCH ATTENTION SHOULD BE DEVOTED (CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR TROPICAL USE), AND THIS SUBJECT WILL BE EMPHASIZED (ALONG WITH FOOD TECHNOLOGY -- THE ORIGINAL PRIORITY) DURING

THE SECOND PHASE OF THE PROJECT. EMBASSY HAS NOT SEEN COPIES OF UNDP RESREP'S ANNUAL REPORT.

(H) ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN EMPHASIZED BY A UNESCO PROJECT ON "GROUP RESOURCES OF WOMEN" BEING ENTIRELY CONDUCTED ON ISLAND OF TOBAGO. DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION (HEADED BY A WOMAN), THIS PROJECT IS HIGHLY INNOVATIVE FOR TRINIDAD, BOTH IN CONTEXT OF EMPHASIS UPON WOMEN AND DUE TO ITS LOCATION, FOR TOBAGO IS A POOR, RURAL AREA OFTEN NEGLECTED BY GOTT'S DEVELOPMENTAL PLANNERS. UNDP PROJECTS THEMSELVES DO NOT DISPLAY ANY PARTICULAR EMPHASIS UPON WOMEN.

(I) ONLY MATTER WHICH HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT MIGHT BE WORTH A FOLLOW-UP IS UNOTC MANNER OF ARRANGING TRAINING REQUESTED BY VARIOUS PROJECTS. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, UNOTC USUALLY FINDS OUT ABOUT POSSIBLE SOURCES OF TRAINING THROUGH CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN AID AGENCIES OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS, BUT IN THE UNITED STATES, IT ATTEMPTS TO DEVELOP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ITSELF. AS A RESULT (AT LEAST IN CASE OF TRINIDAD), A GREAT MANY INDIVIDUALS RECEIVE UNDP FELLOWSHIPS FOR TRAINING IN FOREIGN NATIONS (USUALLY ENGLISH-SPEAKING, AND PREDOMINANTLY CANADA AND THE U.S.() OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES. IN VIEW OF AID/W'S VAST RESOURCES IN FIELD OF PARTICIPANT TRAINING, IT WOULD SEEM LOGICAL FOR UNOTC TO WORK WITH AID IN THIS RESPECT, RATHER THAN TRY TO DO THE JOB ITSELF. SUCH A CHANGE SHOULD PAY OFF IN TERMS OF GREATER NUMBER OF UNDP FELLOWSHIP HOLDERS RECEIVING TRAINING IN THE U.S.

2. ALTHOUGH NOT A PART OF UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO MENTION REMARKABLE DEGREE OF COOPERATION AND HOST-COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION WHICH UNDP HAS RECEIVED FROM GOTT FOR TWO REGIONAL PROJECTS BASED HERE. ONE IS THE CARIBBEAN FISHERIES TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, BASED IN CHAGUARAMAS, AND THE OTHER IS A CIVIL AVIATION TRAINING SCHOOL, TO BE LOCATED NEAR PIARCO AIRPORT. BOTH OF THESE PROJECTS, ALTHOUGH MARRED BY JAMAICA'S REFUSAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO PARTICIPATE, SHOW PROMISE OF BEING HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, AND THE GOTT HAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY PROVIDED SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS IN COUNTERPART CONTRIBUTIONS.

3. COMMENT: OFFICIALS AT UNDP RESREP'S OFFICE COMMENTED FAVORABLY ABOUT USG EVALUATION PROCESS, SAYING THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED VERY USEFUL FEEDBACK FOLLOWING LAST YEAR'S SESSION OF UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL. IRMINGER

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